IDW

46

COVER A

SONIC™

THE HEDGEHOG



STANLEY • THOMAS • FROESE
DUTREIX • GRAHAM • BRECKEL

SEGA®



STORY
EVAN STANLEY

ART
EVAN STANLEY
ADAM BRYCE THOMAS

INKS
MATT FROESE
GIGI DUTREIX

COLORS
REGGIE GRAHAM
HEATHER BRECKEL

LETTERS
SHAWN LEE

ASSISTANT EDITOR
RILEY FARMER

EDITOR
DAVID MARIOTTE

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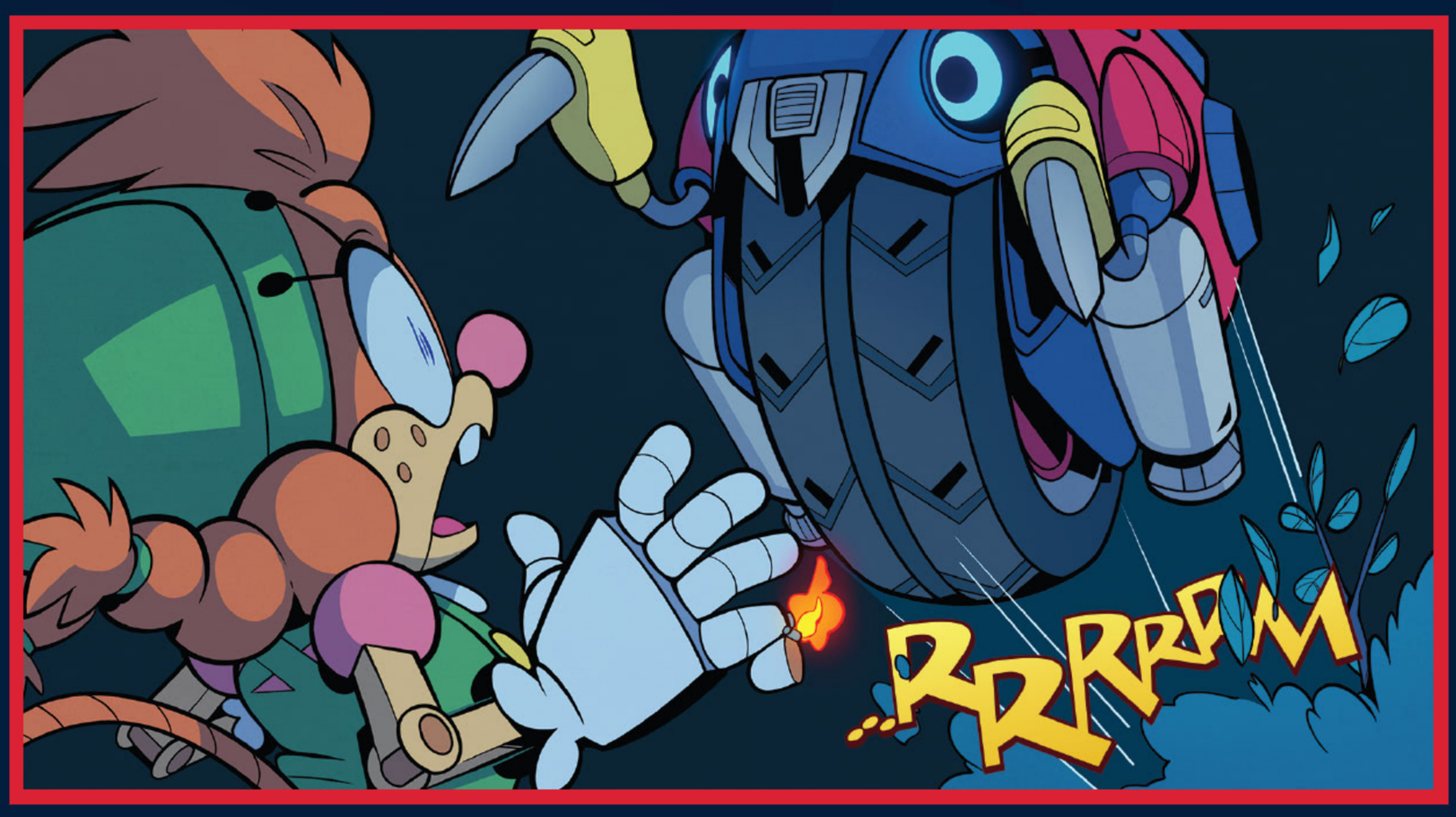
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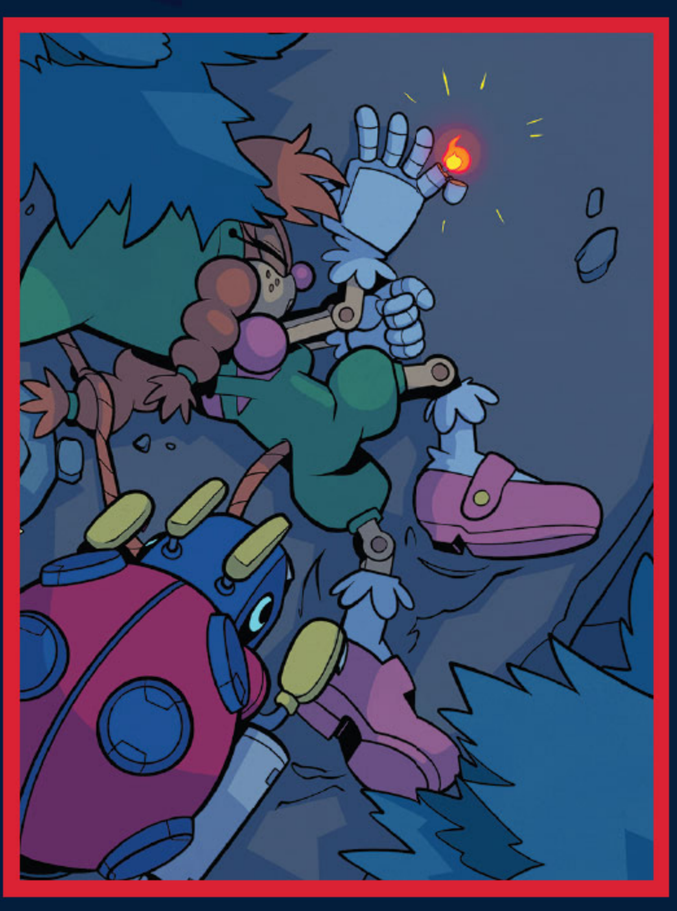
STORY SO FAR

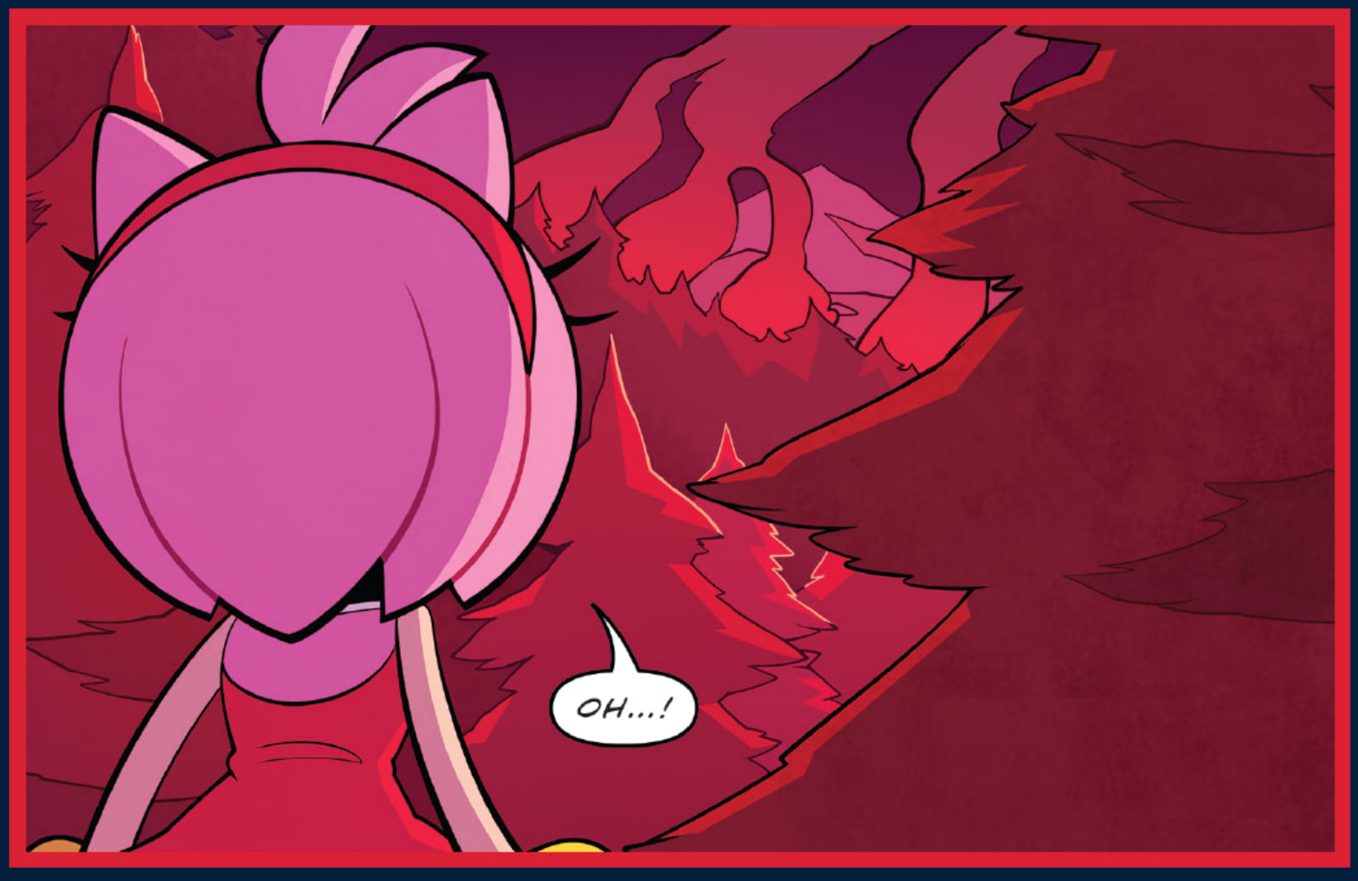

THE METAL VIRUS INFECTED THIS ENTIRE REGION THROUGH THE WINTER AND METAL PLANTS DON'T ABSORB WATER, SEE? SINCE THE AREA MISSED ITS HYDRATION LAST SEASON, WHOLE PARK IS BONE-DRY, AND SET TO GO UP.
FIRE IS ALLOWED ONLY IN MARKED AREAS, AND BE SURE TO FULLY DOUSE THE COALS BEFORE LEAVING THE CAMPSITE. AND NO BURNING TRASH, TAKE IT TO OVER HERE--


I CAN TAKE CARE OF THAT... SEE?
IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'D RATHER NOT.
IT COMES IN HANDY, BUT IT'S STILL A LITTLE NERVE-WRACKING WHEN YOU'RE MADE OF WOOD.


ARE YOU FEELING ALL RIGHT? YOU'VE BEEN DISTRACTED ALL DAY.
I CAN HANDLE IT, JEWEL! I'VE JUST GOT SOME STUFF TO THINK ABOUT.


...RRRRRRM




OH...!


WHERE ARE YOU?!
SIR! IS THERE A--
MY SON--HE'S MISSING! I HAVE TO FIND HIM.
HE'S ALWAYS WANDERING OFF INTO THE WOODS...



AMY ROSE
Hammer-swinging Heroine.
Restoration ally.



TANGLE THE LEMUR
Excitable Hero.
Elastic-tailed brawler.



BELLE THE TINKERER
Clumsy Marionette.
Enthusiastic new-comer.



JEWEL THE BEETLE
Restoration Leader.
Tangle's best friend.

I'M BZT BELLE, NICE TO--

--MEET YOU.

O-OH, FIRE! THAT'S A LOT OF FIRE...!

GAH!

!

VRRRRM

AAAH!

GEARS AND STARTERS...

YOU... PUT IT OUT.

AND YOU PULLED ME OUT OF HARM'S WAY. BUT I THOUGHT I WAS THE ONLY BADNIK THAT WANTS TO HELP...

WAIT--

--MY HAND. THE LIGHTER.

I MUST HAVE...

BELLE!

THERE YOU ARE! YOU OKAY?

WATCH OUT! THE BADNIK, IT'LL--

WAIT!

I THINK THE LIL' GUY MIGHT HAVE SOME WIRES CROSSED.

HE SAVED ME FROM THE FIRE.

THAT'S A BUG I CAN GET BEHIND!

WHOA, WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR HAND?!

I-IT'S NOTHING! DOESN'T HURT.

IT'S NOT NOTHING. GIVE IT HERE.

TANGLE, I THINK I MIGHT HAVE--

TELL ME LATER. RIGHT NOW, WE'VE GOT A BEAR CUB TO FIND.

WHAT ARE WE WORKING WITH HERE?

NOT MUCH... THIS CAMPGROUND IS OVERCROWDED, AND THE ROAD OUT OF HERE ISN'T MEANT FOR HEAVY TRAFFIC.

WITH THE WIND PUSHING THE FIRE OUR WAY, WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THAT.

BUT KEEPING THE GATES CLOSED... THAT'S ONLY GOING TO SCARE PEOPLE.

IF THEY'RE OPENED, WE'LL HAVE A STAMPEDE ON OUR HANDS.

ANY IDEAS, JEWEL?

I-I'M NOT SURE!

WE NEED TO COORDINATE, BUT EVERYONE IS SO ANGRY...

IF WE COULD GET EVERYONE TOGETHER--

HEY, RANGER! YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE IN *CHARGE* HERE, RIGHT?

WHAT'RE YOU TRYING TO DO, KEEPING US IN HERE?! WE'VE GOT FAMILIES--KIDS-- IN DANGER!

OPEN THE GATES!

I'VE GOT A KID OUT THERE, TOO.

OH, I'VE SEEN HIM. THE ONE WITH THE *RED WISP*, RIGHT?

A *FIERY RED* WISP?

HEY, HOLD ON--

AND WHERE IS THAT WISP NOW, *HUH*?

I DON'T KNOW, I-- MY SON IS *MISSING*--

AND YOU EXPECT US TO FOLLOW *YOUR* ORDERS?!

THIS IS MY PARK--

WE'RE GETTING OUT OF HERE, NOW!

PIKO

CRACK

ALL RIGHT, EVERYBODY... SETTLE DOWN AND LISTEN UP!

YOU HAVE EVERY RIGHT TO BE SCARED--OF COURSE YOU WANT TO PROTECT YOURSELVES AND YOUR FAMILIES.

BUT THE GATE IS CLOSED RIGHT NOW FOR A GOOD REASON. THE ROAD IS SO SMALL THAT IF EVERYBODY TRIES TO LEAVE AT ONCE, WE'LL ALL GET STUCK HERE!

OKAY, BUT THAT'S NOT GOING TO STOP THE FIRE. YOU GOT ANOTHER PLAN?

WELL...

...I'M MORE ABOUT LEADING THE *CHARGE*, NOT FIGURING OUT THE *LOGISTICS*.

WHAT?!

BUT I KNOW SOMEONE WHO IS...!

AUGH!

SO, WHAT'S THE PLAN?

AMY, I CAN'T--

I'M GONNA--

YOU WANT SOME HAMMER? NO? GIVE HER A MINUTE.

WHAT'S WRONG?

WHAT GIVES ME THE RIGHT TO TELL THESE PEOPLE WHAT TO DO?

THE ONLY THINGS I'M GOOD WITH ARE *PAPERWORK* AND *ROCKS!*

I STUMBLED THROUGH THE METAL VIRUS, THEN EGGMAN ATTACKED, THEN THE ZETI... THE RESTORATION CAN'T EVEN KEEP ITS OWN PEOPLE SAFE.

AND I... I CAN'T EVEN HELP MY *BEST FRIEND.*

YOU KNOW WHAT ELSE YOU'VE BEEN DOING THIS WHOLE TIME? *YOUR BEST.*

YOU'VE MADE IT THIS FAR, AND WITH EVERY NEW CHALLENGE YOU'RE GETTING A LITTLE STRONGER.

EVEN IF YOU DON'T THINK SO YET, I'M *CERTAIN* YOU CAN HANDLE THIS.

SOMETIMES YOU GOTTA TAKE THINGS ON FAITH, Y'KNOW?

...THANK YOU, AMY.

IT'S WHAT I DO.

HELLO! THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATIENCE.

IF WE APPROACH THIS CRISIS AS A *GROUP*, WE *CAN* MAKE IT THROUGH.

"*FIRST*, ANYONE WITH A HIGH-CAPACITY VEHICLE CAN HELP GET CHILDREN AND ELDERS TO SAFETY.

"OUR NEXT PRIORITY IS PROTECTING *OURSELVES* AND THE *FOREST*. THE RANGER SHOULD HAVE EQUIPMENT FOR PARK MAINTENANCE THAT WE CAN USE.

"WE DON'T HAVE THE RESOURCES TO PUT OUT THE FIRE, BUT WE CAN CREATE A PERIMETER TO CONTAIN ITS SPREAD.

"I CAN'T PROMISE EVERYTHING WILL GO PERFECTLY..."

"...BUT TOGETHER, WE'VE GOT A FIGHTING CHANCE!"

TANGLE, ARE YOU *SURE* YOU'RE OK?

=COUGH= YEAH, IT'S JUST =KAFF= A SIDE-EFFECT OF HAVING *LUNGS*.

OH, *WOW*--

LOOK!

LOOKS LIKE THE SMOKE MIGHT BE THINNER OVER HERE.

IT'S THE RANGER'S KID--*ASHE!*

WATCH YOUR STEP...

I'M NOT GONNA LET A LITTLE LOOSE DIRT STOP-- =KAFF=

CRUMBLE

=COUGHCOUGH= =KAFF= =HACK=

YEEK!

CHRR

:KAFF-HACK:

HUH?!

DON'T LET GO, I GOTCHA!

OKAY, MOVING FAST, CAN'T STOP, OOH CAN'TSTOP-WHATAREWE-GONNA--

!!!

WHEN I SAY PULL, PULL!

SCHRRRR

PULL!

SHRRR

KLIK-DING

WE...

...WE'RE NOT GONNA MAKE IT!

MY TURN!

WHAH!

GRIP

SCHRRR

WH-WHO...

IT'S ASHE, RIGHT? WE'RE HERE TO HELP. I'M BELLE, NICE TO--

DON'T HURT US!

I DON'T WANNA FIGHT!

LISTEN TO ME CAREFULLY. THIS IS *VERY* IMPORTANT.

HONK

DO YOU THINK YOU CAN REMEMBER THAT?

FUNNY CLOWN NOSE...

IF YOU TELL ANYONE, I WILL DISASSEMBLE YOUR BICYCLE AND HIDE EVERY PIECE.

ASHE, WERE YOU OUT HERE WHEN THE FIRE STARTED?

IT WASN'T US! RED HOT AND I WERE GOOD!

I SAW WHO DID IT. IT WAS A LADY WITH BIG SPIKES AND A BOY MY SIZE.

THE LADY MADE LIGHTNING WITH HER HANDS, *THAT'S* WHAT STARTED THE FIRE!

SO IT *WASN'T* ME.

A LADY THROWING AROUND LIGHTNING... THAT'S A NEW ONE.

I SAW TWO PEOPLE FITTING THAT DESCRIPTION, TOO, WALKING THROUGH THE FIRE.

YOU BELIEVE ME?

OF COURSE! NOW LET'S GET YOU BACK TO YOUR DAD, OKAY? CAN YOU HELP US DO THAT?

OKAY!

IF WE FOLLOW THE RIVER DOWNSTREAM, IT'LL LEAD BACK. ME N' RED HOT COME UP HERE ALL THE TIME.

IT'S BETTER THAN THE FIRE...

THEN DOWNSTREAM IT IS!

CREEAK

!

GRA-C-C-C-C-C

WATCH OUT!

C-C-C-C

!!!

SCREECH

...

!

CLOSE ONE...!

GRRRR

TANGLE!

I KNOW, I'M-- DANGIT!

SWAT

!

KRUNCH

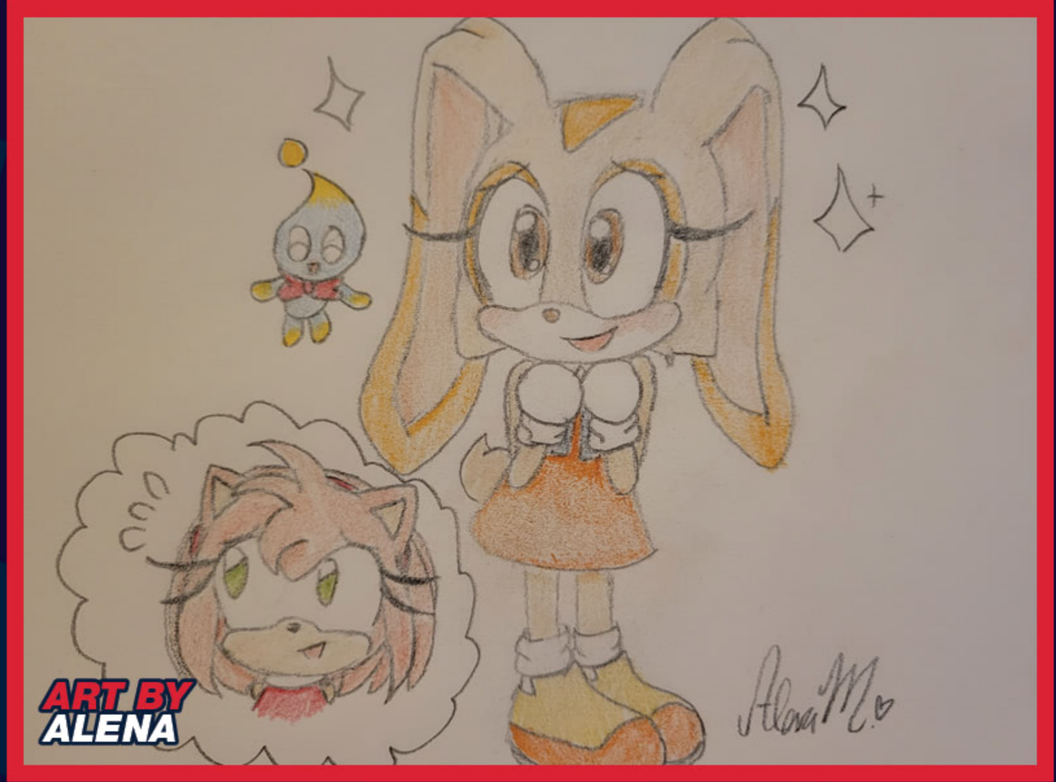

NEXT TIME: HAVE A NICE TRIP, SEE YOU NEXT FALL!

NEXT MONTH



SONIC LETTERS SQUAD





Hi, campers! Thank you for joining Evan Stanley, Adam Bryce Thomas, Matt Froese, Gigi Dutreix, Reggie Graham, Heather Breckel, and Shawn Lee for the second part of "Trial by Fire"! Now, on to your art and letters!

To IDW team,

Please find below some of my fan-art!

I love your comics and I love Belle. She became my favorite character whose problems of being different and trouble fitting in are things I could identify with. And I love Mr. Tinker–what a kind and gentle old man. He must have been a wonderful dad.

I have been reading the Sonic comics for 15 years now, and while there have been many moments that made me emotional, the ending of "Test Run" totally moved me to tears. Thank you for the wonderful stories!

Best wishes,
Tami

Hi, Tami,

First, your art is gorgeous. Don't you just wish Mr. Tinker and Belle could live that happy, simple life forever? Belle certainly has a good life ahead of her, with lovely friends and a drive to help others, but Eggman… well, he doesn't have any friends. Besides the ones he builds.

I know what you mean about not fitting in. Sometimes it's hard to find your place, but sometimes your place finds you… or stumbles upon you in a base abandoned by a mad scientist. I'm so glad to hear that Belle's journey moved your heart, I hope you continue to love her and what comes next!

Dear IDW,

I've been a fan of *Sonic the Hedgehog* ever since I was a little girl. It's absolutely insane how Sonic has influenced my life. To be honest, if it weren't for Sonic, I would have never been into video games at all, and I can't imagine my life without that! Sonic is also one of my biggest inspirations for art and I always made my own characters as a kid too. I'm turning 20 years old soon and it's crazy to think that during almost all of those years, Sonic has grown up with me too. I absolutely love the IDW comics. The art inspires me every time I look at it, it's so awesome seeing the different expressions! My favorite character from the comics has to be Cream. When she was infected by the metal virus, it made me tear up a bit! She is so sweet and I love her relationship with Gemerl too. I hope we get to see Cream more! As for now I love the direction the comic is going, I can't wait for the next issue! Seeing the Deadly Six in the comics is so interesting and I can't wait to see Sonic and friends kick their butts!! I hope you all have a great day and stay safe out there!

Sent with love,
Alena



Dear Alena,

It's so lovely to hear that you've been a Sonic fan for so long. Sonic is one of those unique characters that people tend to love from childhood into adulthood. The fun character design and silliness may have drawn you in as a kid, but you stuck around for the friendship, evolving characters, and epic battles. Sometimes fans stick around so long, they turn their nerdy passion into a job, like many of our artists!

Cream is the best. She's so sweet and everyone wants to protect her, but at the end of the day, she's great at sticking up for herself and those she loves. Thank you for sharing your letter and art!

Hello, this is Angel again with more action figures based on the characters from your wonderful comic! I absolutely love Rough and Tumble's whole thing, they're similar to Team Rocket in that even though they're the bad guys we can't help but root for them a little because they're so funny. My friend Korey made some really nice 3D models of them and I used a 3D printer to make some of their parts for these custom figures. Rough is made from a mega construx minifigure and Tumble used to be Storm the Albatross. Combined with my customs of Dr. Starline and Mimic, along with the official Zavok figure (which is a little undersized, I might make a bigger one later on) I actually have the whole team from the Bad Guys special! I'm also planning on making Jewel and Belle down the line to go with Tangle and Whisper.

Hi, Angel,

Thank you so much for sharing these, I'm always amazed by your skill. Rough and Tumble turned out fantastic. You've got the whole Bad Guys team, and I'm worried what trouble they might get up to at night when you're sleeping! I can't wait to see what you do next!

Thank you for joining us, Squad. Please don't forget to send your art and letters to letters@idwpublishing.com, and make sure to mark them: "OKAY TO PRINT!" And join the IDW Sonic Comics Squad on Facebook! Next month, extinguish your curiosity and find out how Amy, Tangle, Belle, and Jewel save the day!





ART JENNIFER HERNANDEZ



ART RYAN JAMPOLE



ART NATHALIE FOURDRAINE